

The Bell

Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



FEBRUARY / MARCH
2024

Welcome

Welcome to 2024 and the start of the fifth year of *The Bell*!

We are hitting the ground running in this new year with plenty in store at the School, Church and Chapel, and several opportunities to make good on your resolutions with requests for den building materials at the school, a Spring clean of unwanted items for *Coffee and Shop*, and a volunteer driver scheme in development. Please also 'save the date' for the Parish AGM on 8th April.

As we look ahead to Spring and lambing time, there is also good advice from local vet Laura Chesters on walking pets alongside livestock, as well as a glance to the local past through the former railway line at Bradley.

Please send any articles, photos, or other items for our next issue by 15th March.

Take care,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chairman, John Oakden

01948 663940 / 07989 220468; john.oakden@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Clerk, Angela Culshaw

07802187833; angelaculshaw22@btinternet.com

Ward Councillor, Rachel Williams

01948 860627; rachel.williams@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Eddisbury MP, Edward Timpson

01829 733243; edward.timpson.mp@parliament.uk

Local police, PCSO Rachael McKevitt

Calls to 101 (non-urgent); rachael.mckevitt@cheshire.police.uk



Report It

To report any Council-related issues or to track progress, visit:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx

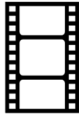
Alternatively, you can use the reporting App, and log a report in four simple steps:

- 1) Pinpoint the location on the map;
- 2) Take a photo of the fault;
- 3) Select a category and provide more information;
- 4) Submit.

What's On?

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



The Great Escaper [12]

Monday 19th February, 7.30 pm

Poignant British drama telling the true story of a WWII veteran who secretly leaves his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Stars Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.

The Miracle Club [12]

Monday 18th March, 7.30 pm

Gently emotional drama set in 1967 about a group of women who win their dream to travel from Ireland to the religious shrine at Lourdes in search of different forms of healing. Stars Maggie Smith, Laura Linney, Kathy Bates and Stephen Rea.

Tickets £5, including snacks; refreshments on sale

Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

– last Wednesday of the month

Weds 28th February, 7.30 pm:

The Miracle Club [12] (see above!)

See www.tattenhall.org for details of future screenings.

Tickets £5 on the door

All welcome; BYO drinks/snacks

The Big Spring Clean @ St Chad's
Saturday 23rd March, 10 am–2 pm.
Bring your dusters, spit and polish!

☕ **Spring Coffee and Shop**

☕ **Saturday 6th April**

@ St Chad's, 10 am–12 noon

All are welcome to meet friends, shop and eat cake! Look out for some Easter games too.

If you have any good quality items to donate and recycle (clothes, gift items, books and household), please contact Louise on 01948 820541.

And, **save the date** for further exciting events that weekend...

Parish AGM, St Chad's Church
Monday 8th April at 7 pm

Resounding success: The newly trained Tushingham bell ringers made their debut at the Christingle and



Chester Diocesan Guild
Tushingham, Cheshire
St Chad
Sunday, 3 December 2023

Rounds
Ann Johnson
Claire Snaith
John Snaith
Tadge Szeszak
Roy Walker
Elaine Wright
F Charles Hobson
Peter W H Barker
Simon Christian

For the Christingle Service. This was the first time that the newly trained Tushingham ringers (Ann, Claire, Tadge and John) had rung for a service.

Carol services at St Chad's as

recorded on 'BellBoard'!

To find out about joining the team, contact Tower Captain Ann Johnson, on 07860 496836.

Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report

Lots of things happening in the Parish. We have a new Clerk, Angela Culshaw, and you will be hearing things from her shortly. The Parish Meeting was held on 8th January and was well attended with many good ideas being suggested and approved. I have contacted the planning department of the Council and they have agreed that we do not need planning permission to erect the phone box/defibrillator in the car park at *The Blue Bell*. Many thanks to Jerry and Ginette for their kind offer, and to Matt Hollins and Martin Williams for their work in advancing the project. A suggestion from Bill Culshaw is that we look for ideas of things that are needed, or could improve, the Parish and on which we can help, particularly financially. This suggestion was warmly welcomed and so I would ask all to consider what could be done, and send any ideas to me before the next meeting in April (see above, AGM at St Chad's).

It has also been suggested that we implement a scheme to assist people who have difficulty getting to doctor or hospital appointments and need lifts. The Meeting agreed that we should offer volunteers financial assistance, where required, for this help. I would like to ask if there is anyone willing to volunteer to co-ordinate the scheme. In the meantime, anyone who needs assistance or who is willing to give assistance, please contact me (details below).

John

John Oakden, Chairman

**** Next meeting, AGM ****

Monday 8th April

St Chad's Church, Tushingham
7 pm



Garden Waste Collections 2024

Those wanting to subscribe to the Council's garden waste collection service (ie. 'green bin') for 2024, can now do so by calling 0300 123 7026, or by applying online at cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/gardenwastecollection

The cost is **£50** for the year, with collections running fortnightly from the week of 26th February until 29th November.

Please note that it can take up to 10 working days for the subscription sticker to arrive, and collections will not be made until this is in place on the bin.

Police Community Support



PCSO for Farndon, Malpas and Tattenhall
PCSO Rachael McKeivitt
rachael.mckevitt@cheshire.police.uk



Beat Manager Rural South, **PC Steve Gardner**
stephen.gardner@cheshire.police.uk

Dragon Hall Police Station, Whitchurch Road, Chowley, Tattenhall CH3 9DU

Website: cheshire.police.uk; **Facebook:** [ThallMalpasPol](https://www.facebook.com/ThallMalpasPol)

Dial 999 in an emergency, 101 in a non-emergency

You can also report incidents via the Cheshire Police website
(Please do not report incidents via Facebook)

Police surgeries in February

Fri 2nd (10–11 am) Barbour Institute car park, Tattenhall

Tues 13th (3–4 pm) at Dragon Hall Police Station, Chowley (A41)

Weds 21st (10–11 am) High Street, Malpas

Police surgeries in March

Mon 5th (10–11 am) High Street, Farndon

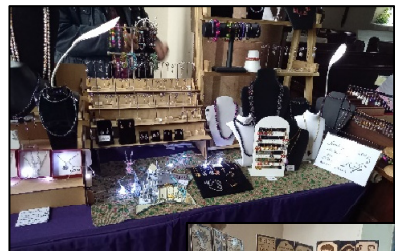
Mon 11th (9–10 am) at Alison's Country Kitchen, High Street, Tattenhall

Tues 23rd (10–11 am) at Dragon Hall Police Station, Chowley (A41)

Thank you from St Chad's

The Christmas Market held at the end of November proved a very enjoyable event, which also raised a tremendous £1,650 for St Chad's Church. The church was busy with an increase in visitors this year – many regulars but also some new faces – and a varied selection of stalls with something to suit all.

A big thank you to Sally Ann and Claire on the bacon baps, Jackie's team on the tea and coffee, and John and Henry selling raffle tickets. The impromptu choir was lovely; thank you to all of them with their woolly hats – and as always, many thanks to Father Christmas and his helpers at such a busy time of year! 😊





News from St Chad's

“A Friend,” says the wise man, “is the medicine of life.” Medicine may meet our physical needs, but perhaps these days medicine is too easily relied upon to meet other wounds in our soundness of mind or general well-being?

In 1143, Aelred, Abbott of Rievaulx (a North Yorkshire abbey), wrote, “What happiness, what security, what joy to have someone to whom you dare to speak on terms of equality as to another self; one to whom you need have no fear to confess your failings; one to whom you can unblushingly make known progress you have made in the heart and before whom you can place all your plans!”

We need friends... Friendship brings something into our lives that nothing else can. In every necessity a friend's service, words, actions, understanding and love can raise our spirit more than any other pick-me-up! Wise council from a loving friend can bolster dark thoughts that can break us, upholding our belief in our humankind. The Post Office Workers who suffered such injustice needed ‘a friend’, someone who understood their circumstances and someone who cared enough to do something. Often, it takes just one other person to change things.

Jesus had friends. Some of them loved Him so much that they fell headlong into a relationship with Him that blew their character wide open, and they began to see their own shortcomings quickly. Some of them doubted His words and their journey with Him was slower, as they took time and effort to truly understand Him. One of His friends betrayed Him, never fully seeing who He was and why He was!

Human friends can come and go for various reasons, interrupting our lives as they bring us genuine care and momentary relief, just like those in Jesus' friendship circle. For at the darkest moment of Jesus' life, everyone deserted Him. Our humanness tests us in so many ways. And if we learn from our experiences along the way, perhaps our friendship with others becomes a stage in our thinking and being that assists us in seeing the love and understanding of each other, and of God Himself, who created us in His own image. In being a friend to others, we become the friend of God.

“I no longer call you servants,” Jesus said to his disciples, “because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you.” *John 15:15*

It was on the cross that Jesus' friends realised just how much He loved them. They watched from afar as He breathed his last, His arms outstretched, as if to say, ‘I love you this much’. They witnessed His burial, and went back to their business without Him, but a relationship with God is like no other. Jesus came back, and overcame death itself to be with them forever, to lead them, guide them and mentor them as only a true and loving friend can... Is that the kind of friendship you need?

Rev Veronica x

veronicarom838@aol.com

01948 663758; 07928 792337

Services at St Chad's in February and March

Sunday 4 February	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 11 February	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Weds 14 February	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday , Holy Communion with Ashes
Sunday 18 February	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 February	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 3 March	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 10 March	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday , Service of the Word
Sunday 17 March	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 March	11.00 am	Palm Sunday , Service of the Word
Thursday 28 March	6.30 pm	Maundy Thursday, Agape Supper (see below)
Friday 29 March	2–3 pm	Good Friday , Reflective readings and prayers
Sunday 31 March	9.00 am	Easter Sunday , Family Communion

Lent Bible Study will be at 6.30 pm on Tuesdays from Feb 20th to March 19th at the home of Carolyn and Phil Wort (Prospect House, Horseman's Green, SY13 3DY) for a simple soup supper, and study from 7–9 pm. Details from Rev Veronica.

Reflective Prayer is held every Tuesday morning at 9.30 am at St Michael's Church, Marbury. Tea/ coffee and space to rest in God...

Agape Supper @ St Chad's on Maundy Thursday, 6.30 pm for 7 pm. Join us as we gather to remember the events of the Last Supper, sharing in a soup supper followed by a reflective talk and prayers. 9 pm finish.

Easter Sunday Sun Rise Service at 6.30am @ St Michael's, Marbury followed by a simple Easter breakfast, then **Easter Family Communion** at 9 am @ St Chad's.



The Big Spring Clean @ St Chad's on Saturday 23rd March, 10 am–2 pm.
Bring your dusters, spit and polish!

Advance Notice: A Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Birkenhead, Bishop Julie, for our Benefice will take place this year on Sunday November 24th at 4.30 pm at St Michael's, Marbury. Please contact Rev Veronica for further details.

Church Wardens

Mr P Moore Dutton: 01948 860216 / 07970 47772; peter@moore-dutton.co.uk

Mr A Dawson: 01948 820305 / 07436 072278; a78dawson@hotmail.com

Marbury, Tushingham and Whitewell Benefice website: www.parishmag.org

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel



Inside Bradley Chapel, you can now see the newly fitted carpets, funded by a £600 Grant from the *Unaffiliated Congregational Churches Charities*. Our aim is also to replace long outdated cushions, helping to improve both comfort and safety.

Last November's new style *Remembrance Service* combined

traditional elements of national commemoration together with individual past, and more recent, personal losses of both family and friends. December's well attended *Carols Service* emphasised the ongoing increased strength of Bradley's congregation, with a firm start to 2024 given by Pastor Brian Faulkner's 14th January service, themed 'Called to Service'.

Following the recent heavy rain, whilst Chapel appears undamaged, the uncleared road drains caused flooding to the Old Stables, a matter being taken up both with the authorities and our insurers.

Future Sunday service dates – all at 2.30 pm.

11th February Pastor Mike Valentine's theme! *Love, Love Changes Everything*

10th March Pastor Brian Faulkner

21st April *Songs of Praise* [Note change of date to third Sunday of the month]
The welcome return of Rev'd Veronica Green to Bradley Chapel

12th May Pastor Brian Faulkner

9th June *Chapel Anniversary*

Another welcome return – Rev'd Frank Wroe & Mrs Lynda Wroe, both with fond memories of the late Tony Green (Bradley steward). Rev'd Frank is Executive Officer of *The Unaffiliated Congregational Churches Charities* and has served as a former National President of *The Congregational Federation*.

Come and experience for yourselves Bradley Chapel's traditionally warm welcome.

Pastor Brian Faulkner
Pastor Mike Valentine

brianfaulkner@btinternet.com
mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net

Memories of the railway at Bradley: Part 1

For over 90 years and across two World Wars, the Whitchurch to Tattenhall railway cut through Bradley. A fee of £20 was negotiated for crossing Bradley Common and, during construction, a powerful steam engine turned out 16,000 bricks each day at Mr Snow's farm in Tushingam. Opened in 1872, the branch line ran from Chester to Whitchurch, with stops at Waverton, Black Dog, Tattenhall, Broxton, Malpas, and Grindley Brook. Each day (except Sundays) 7 trains ran from Whitchurch, including the 38-minute mid-morning express!

“There was to have been a stop at Bradley (it was a crossing point for the salt run from Wigland to the canal) but they made it at Grindley Brook for the fishermen and the pub.”

“We were the nearest house to the railway and the bedroom door would open when the fast train went through.”

Originally planned as a ‘short cut’ goods route to Birkenhead docks, there were also local passenger services and the branch line transformed the rural area by enabling city commuting, daily newspapers, speedier mail delivery, and transit of livestock, machinery, grain, straw and other produce.

“My sisters biked to Grindley Brook Halt, left their bikes at a house and got the train to go to Broughall School as the road was so busy with lorries going to the steel works near Chester.”

“The last train at night from Chester to Whitchurch at 6.45 used to throw the evening paper out and a lump of coal; what a job to find that on a dark night! In return, payment was a rabbit (Granddad was the local rabbit catcher) which was always well received, especially in the war.”

The first VIP to travel was Prime Minister William Gladstone, and the line was also used as an overnight stop by the Royal train during visits to the North West, when it would occasionally spend the night in the sidings at Malpas. King Edward VII (for Chester Races), George V (WW1), George VI (WW2), and Queen Elizabeth II with Prince Phillip, all travelled here over the years.

Many thanks to David Adams for the photographs and personal recollections.

Wagons outside Greenfields Farm, Bradley





The Spring term always fills us with optimism for what will be achieved in this new year and the experiences that we will have in 2024.

The children have started their academic lessons well and are tackling their new topics with enthusiasm. We are also happy to offer another inspiring selection of after-school clubs this term, including Loom band and bracelet club, craft club, Forest school, quiz club, Blue Peter badge club, and movie night club to name but a few!

As reported last time, there were very many special celebrations planned here in December and – despite an untimely power cut – the nativity plays, school Christmas Fair, Shrewsbury pantomime trip, talent show and carol service were all much enjoyed. On top of this, we had a surprise visit from the Director of Education in Uganda (long story!) who was very interested to see our school and meet the children. Our VIVAs (school council) did a wonderful job of telling him all about Tushingham School.

January saw a (planned!) visit from the fire brigade, who spoke to Class 4 about fire safety. Looking ahead, we have the inter-schools' handball, netball and indoor athletics tournaments coming up at Bishop Heber, plus the *Gotta Dance* showcase at Crewe Lyceum in March when Class 4 will be representing the school, guided by professional dancer, Chloë Hewitt.

Thanks to the support of parents and the local community posting their 'blue tokens' at the Whitchurch store, the Tesco grant scheme has awarded us funding support for the development of an orchard and vegetable beds. The orchard is already growing with apple, plum, and pear trees, and the vegetable beds will be developed in the summer term.

The school breaks for half term on 16th February, and for Easter on 27th March. To read Mrs Davies' newsletters in full, see www.tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk



We have an outstanding number of high-achieving readers at Tushingham.

TUSHINGHAM TODDLERS
ALL WELCOME

Come and join us for a morning of fun and activities!

Snacks for the children and hot drinks & biscuits for the grown-ups included!



Tuesdays (termtime only) **9:30-11:30** **£2 for first child** (50p for each additional child)

Tushingham School Hall, Cheshire, SY13 9DS Tushingham Toddlers

School nursery places

We currently have places in our school nursery year for children in the term after they are 3 years' old. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Devaney: admin@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk

Den building materials – can you help?

Our children love to build dens outside! If anyone has any crates, wheels or other materials that could be used to create outdoor dens, please contact Mrs Davies via admin@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk

Back in time for school *This newspaper item from November 1976 gives a glimpse of times gone by at Tushingham Primary School almost 50 years ago! You may recognise the original buildings that still form a major part of the school today, housing Class 2. Reporting on a skipping event held at the school, the picture legend says, "It shows that boys can skip just as well as girls!" Thanks to John Hollins for providing the photo.*



The dangers of pets with livestock

Laura Chesters MRCVS

As a local farm vet, I have seen some of the damage that pets can cause to livestock first hand. According to recent statistics, around 15,000 sheep are killed in dog attacks every year and yet the culprit is rarely identified.

Dogs don't need to cause physical damage to sheep to have a devastating impact. Sometimes just them running around is enough to cause ewes to abort their lambs or even die of exhaustion. Over the last couple of years our family farm has had two separate attacks which led to three deaths and two severe injuries that needed veterinary assistance. All we ask is that dog owners stick to footpaths and 'take the lead' and keep dogs on leads around livestock.

Dogs can also carry a parasite called *Neospora Caninum* which is picked up by eating infected aborted calves or afterbirth. The parasite often doesn't cause any harm to the dog, but the eggs or 'oocysts' are shed in the dog's faeces. If a naïve cow ingests some of the dog faeces (which could easily be done in a field), this will cause the cow to be infected for life and makes her around 3-7 times more likely to abort her calf in the future. In beef or dairy farming, making sure a cow has a calf every year is important to enable her to stay as a productive animal in the herd. There is no cure or vaccine for *Neospora*, so cleaning up after dogs and not allowing them near deadstock is one of the ways pet owners can help.

On a similar note, cats carry a parasite called *Toxoplasma Gondii* which, like *Neospora*, is picked up by cats eating infected material. Obviously, cats are usually out alone and can stray for miles so we have less control over them, but it is something to think about if you live near a farm. With cats, the oocysts they shed cause abortions in pregnant ewes and can cause huge losses around lambing time. This is also a reason that pregnant ladies should stay away from in-lamb ewes as this infection can cross over to humans. Luckily, there is an effective vaccine available for this, but this is at an added cost for the farmer.

When one thinks of livestock worrying it is usual to assume that it only affects sheep, but cattle, poultry and goats can also be victims. There have been instances of dogs attacking cattle and causing horrific injuries and even death.

We want the public to enjoy the countryside and keep themselves, their pets and domestic livestock and wildlife safe. It is now recommended that if you are walking your dog near cattle and the cattle become aggressive, you should drop your dog's lead and leave the field as quickly as possible. Do not pick your dog up or keep it on a lead as the cattle will see you as a threat.

Please remember that if your dog attacks livestock you can face a hefty fine and a police record, which nobody wants. So keep pets under control and stay safe around animals.